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a more detailed and adequate characterization of the leading Russian statesmen of the period, and a more systematic and complete analysis of the needs, motives, and aims that directed their foreign policy.

R. H. L.

Diplomatische Aktenstücke zur Geschichte der Entente politik der Vorkriegsjahre. Herausgegeben von B. VON SIEBERT, ehemaliger Sekretär der Kaiserlich Russischen Botschaft in London. (Berlin and Leipzig: Vereinigung Wissenschaftlicher Verleger. 1921. Pp. vi, 827. \$2.70 bound.)

Entente Diplomacy and the World: Matrix of the History of Europe, 1909-14. Translated from the Original Texts in his Possession by B. DE SIEBERT, late Secretary of the Imperial Russian Embassy at London. Edited, arranged, and annotated by GEORGE ABEL SCHREINER, Political and War Correspondent in Europe during the War of the Associated Press of America. (New York: Harper and Brothers.¹ 1921. Pp. xxxii, 762. \$9.00.)

THIS collection includes what are presumably the most important despatches exchanged between the Foreign Offices of St. Petersburg, London, and Paris, and the reports of the Russian diplomatic representatives at all the important European capitals. It covers the greatest variety of diplomatic action: the Far East, Persia, North Africa, the Balkans, the Austro-Serb problem, Constantinople, the Bagdad Railway, and the general relations of the Entente with the Triple Alliance. It is so complete that the main lines of Russian policy before the war can be drawn with a degree of accuracy rarely possible so soon after the events in question. The political significance of this publication is greater in that the German defense to the indictment of the Versailles Treaty (and the reparation clauses rest to a large extent upon Germany's responsibility therein stated) is based chiefly upon counter-charges directed against Russia.

There is nothing that leads the reviewer to doubt the authenticity of the documents, but it seems probable that the editors have not been entirely candid as to their provenance. De Siebert (as he is called in the American edition) or von Siebert (as he appears in the German), who was formerly secretary of the Russian Embassy at London, implies that the originals came into his possession in the course of his diplomatic duties. But such officials do not ordinarily retain copies of correspondence passing through their hands. It is curious also that he should have taken the trouble to translate the originals, which he states are in Russian, French, and English, into German, the language of the

¹ The book bears the name of this firm as publishers, but we are informed by them that they do not publish it, nor does the firm of Putnam, who printed it; copies can be obtained from the office of the periodical *Issues of Today*, 132 Nassau Street, New York. Ed.

European edition. Mr. Headlam-Morley, in the *Quarterly Review* for January, 1922, asks whether these documents are not in fact copies taken before the war by German secret agents, whose success in securing Russian diplomatic papers is attested by the disclosures of the late Professor Schiemann and the memoirs of von Bethmann-Hollweg. If we accept this plausible explanation, it follows that this collection is fathered by the German government, which evidently hoped that the documents would discredit Entente policy. The same thought was perhaps in the mind of the American editor, Mr. Schreiner, who is well known as an anti-Entente journalist and who asserts in the periodical *Issues of Today* of June 18, 1921, that Sir George Buchanan at the orders of his government paid half a million pounds in a fruitless attempt to suppress these documents; no evidence accompanied this assertion and it is explicitly denied by Headlam-Morley.

However much we may regret that the historical introductions and annotations of the American edition have not been written by one possessing a more scholarly background and a less pronounced anti-Entente bias, the value of the documents remains; and their significance is the more to be emphasized if, as seems probable, Wilhelmstrasse had them in its possession before 1914. For they seem to indicate definitely that English policy was always essentially defensive; in every crisis England did her utmost to discover a peaceful solution. The understanding with Russia was obviously conceived not with the purpose of threatening Germany but merely to protect England from the menace of the German fleet. On the Russian side the defensive character of the Entente appears equally plain whether we cite the report of the Reval conversations or the documents of 1912 and 1913, which show that Russia insisted that she would not go to war to secure a port on the Adriatic for Serbia and continually exercised a restraining influence on the ambitions of the latter power. On the other hand, if the documents tend to acquit the Entente of aggressive intentions, they point the danger and stupidity of the complex system of alliance in which before the war all European statesmen were caught.

CHARLES SEYMOUR.

What Really Happened at Paris: the Story of the Peace Conference, 1918-1919, by American Delegates. Edited by EDWARD MANDELL HOUSE and CHARLES SEYMOUR, Litt.D. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1921. Pp. xiii, 528. \$4.50.)

THE volume edited by Colonel House and Professor Seymour consists of a series of eighteen lectures delivered in the spring of 1921 by members of the American Delegation to the Peace Conference. A general idea of their range and value may be gathered from the following chapter heads: Preparations for Peace, by Sidney Edward Mezes; the Atmosphere and Organization of the Peace Conference, by Clive